



Center for Clinical Standards and Quality

Ref: QSO-23-18-NH

DATE: June 28, 2023

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Directors, Quality, Safety & Oversight Group (QSOG) and Survey & Operations Group (SOG)

SUBJECT: Posting of Nursing Home Ownership/Operatorship Affiliation Data on Nursing Home Care Compare Website and data.cms.gov

Memorandum Summary

- **Posting Nursing Home Affiliation on Nursing Home Care Compare:** CMS will include ownership and operatorship affiliation information on our Nursing Home Care Compare website.
- **Posting Aggregate Nursing Home Performance Data on data.cms.gov:** CMS will publish combined inspection, staffing, quality, and other performance metrics across groups of nursing homes with shared ownership and operatorship on data.cms.gov.

Background:

Posting Nursing Home Affiliation on Nursing Home Care Compare

On February 28, 2022, the White House released the [*FACT SHEET: Protecting Seniors by Improving Safety and Quality of Care in the Nation's Nursing Homes*](#), which announced an initiative to increase the transparency of corporate ownership and operation of nursing homes.

On [September 26, 2022](#), CMS began publishing Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) ownership data on data.cms.gov. As part of this release, CMS identified groups of Medicare-certified nursing homes linked together by common owners and operators, referred to as “**affiliated entities**,” which were included in the dataset. For the first time, data were made available that identified common owners or operators across nursing home locations.

As part of the next phase of this initiative, CMS will make this affiliated entity information available on the [Nursing Home Care Compare website](#) in order to increase the transparency of nursing homes’ ownership and operatorship for consumers, allowing them to make more informed decisions about their care.

Posting Aggregate Nursing Home Health, Staffing, and Quality Data on data.cms.gov

CMS will publish the Nursing Home Affiliated Entity Performance Measures dataset on data.cms.com. These data combine inspection, staffing, quality, and other performance metrics across affiliated entities. In doing so, CMS will fulfill the White House Fact Sheet goal to “track and identify owners and operators across states to highlight previous problems with promoting resident health and safety.”

Both the changes to Nursing Home Care Compare and the publishing of the Nursing Home Affiliated Entity Performance Measures dataset on data.cms.gov will take place on **June 28, 2023**.

Discussion:

Posting Nursing Home Affiliations on Nursing Home Care Compare

As part of CMS’s commitment to transparency, our goal is to provide consumers with as much information about nursing homes as possible to support their healthcare decisions. Allowing consumers to see information about a nursing home’s affiliated entities directly on Nursing Home Care Compare supports our initiative to promote data transparency and dissemination, and allows consumers and their caregivers to make more informed decisions about their care.

Therefore, we will publish affiliated entity names and affiliated entity identification numbers (IDs) for each facility on Nursing Home Care Compare. Affiliated entities are groups of nursing homes sharing at least one individual or organizational owner, officer, or entity with operational/managerial control. Ownership data comes from the Provider Enrollment, Chain, and Ownership System (PECOS), the electronic Medicare enrollment system and national data repository for individual and organizational providers who have enrolled or are enrolling in Medicare. For more information on PECOS and how affiliated entities are assigned by CMS, please see [the Provider Enrollment – Skilled Nursing Facility Data Guidance](#).

Affiliated entity names and ID numbers will be published in the ownership sections for each facility on Nursing Home Care Compare. Hover text will be included to provide an explanation about this information, and there will also be a link to the new Nursing Home Affiliated Entity Performance Measures dataset on data.cms.gov.

Providers’ affiliated entity names and IDs may occasionally change as providers undergo changes in ownership or enrollment. Providers who have questions or recommended corrections or updates to their nursing home affiliated entity assignment may contact NH_Affiliation_Inquiries@cms.hhs.gov for additional information.

Posting Aggregate Nursing Home Health, Staffing, and Quality Data on data.cms.gov

The Nursing Home Affiliated Entity Performance Measures dataset provides quality and performance information from the [Nursing Home Care Compare website](#) for groups of nursing homes that share an affiliated entity. The data include averages of ratings for the overall, inspection, staffing, and quality measure star ratings, staffing measures, quality measures, select enforcement remedies imposed, percent of facilities for-profit and not-for-profit, number of Special Focus Facilities, and COVID-19 vaccination rates.

Publishing aggregate performance data for affiliated entities on data.cms.gov promotes the safety and quality of care by increasing the transparency of nursing home safety and quality data among nursing homes with shared ownership and operatorship structures. This also aims to increase accountability for owners and operators of multiple nursing homes.

The data can also be used by state agencies and CMS to gain more information about prospective owners and operators of nursing homes prior to certification of new nursing homes and during change of ownership requests, as well as give the public the tools to understand and evaluate the quality of nursing homes with common ownership or operation.

The Nursing Home Affiliated Entity Performance Measures dataset can be accessed at <https://data.cms.gov/quality-of-care/nursing-home-affiliated-entity-performance-measures> starting on **June 28, 2023**.

We welcome feedback from users and stakeholders on recommendations for how to improve the utility of the data posted.

Contact:

For questions or concerns relating to this memorandum, please contact NH_Affiliation_Inquiries@cms.hhs.gov.

Effective Date:

Immediately. Please communicate to all appropriate staff.

Karen L. Tritz
Director, Survey & Operations Group

/s/

David R. Wright
Director, Quality, Safety & Oversight Group

Resources to Improve Quality of Care:

Check out CMS's new [Quality in Focus](#) interactive video series. The series of 10–15 minute videos are tailored to provider types and aim to reduce the deficiencies most commonly cited during the CMS survey process, like infection control and accident prevention. Reducing these common deficiencies increases the quality of care for people with Medicare and Medicaid.

Learn to:

- *Understand surveyor evaluation criteria*
- *Recognize deficiencies*
- *Incorporate solutions into your facility's standards of care*

*See the [Quality, Safety, & Education Portal Training Catalog](#), and select *Quality in Focus**